

# ABSOLUTE SECURITY SEEN ONLY IN POWERFUL NAVY

Col. Thompson, Telling Purpose of Navy League, Says Sea Forces Are Defenders of All the States

German and American Navies Compared as to Ships and Gun-Power.

Col. ROBERT M. THOMPSON,  
President of the Navy League of the United States.



Col. Robert M. Thompson.

THE Naval Academy is in some respects one of the old-fashioned schools. They teach us even to this day about the Constitution of the United States and train us to believe that he who lives under it and enjoys the blessings it brings and yet fails to love and support it is false to the fathers and to the country and a betrayer of the rights of future generations.

We who come from that school know that the Constitution was originally in effect a contract between thirteen independent States on one side and the Federal Government on the other. We know that the States gave up some of their well-loved rights, and that the Federal Government in return solemnly undertook to carry out its part of the agreement and to see that the States did not suffer because of having made this sacrifice for the general welfare.

We are there required to study the books in which the fathers taught that originally each of the thirteen States was free to maintain armies and navies to defend itself against aggression, but that their people in order to provide for the common defense and to secure the blessings of liberty to themselves and their posterity gave up their rights to arm and agreed not to "keep troops or ships of war in time of peace" if in return the central government would agree with the States to "protect each of them against invasion." Our instructors told us that in substance the Federal Government said to the then armed and protected States: "We ask you for the sake of that high ideal, a government of the people, to lay down your arms and to promise not to take them up again, and in return we, the Federal Government, guarantee that we will so protect you against your enemies that your soil shall never be invaded."

Every young man at the Naval Academy is made to understand these facts and takes an oath to support the Constitution; in so doing he pledges his honor that while the States remain thus defenseless he will do his utmost to carry out the sacred pledge of his forefathers and help to guard against invasion.

Our naval officers, in the performance of their duties, see much of foreign countries, and so come to know more than most other Americans about the diplomacy and the course of current history abroad. Thus it is no wonder that when the Spanish war ended the navy was quick to realize that our entry into the field of colonization and our far flung borders would specify and our period of isolation and bring upon us some of the obligations and many of the perils which beset a world power. And with this realization came the consciousness that the Constitution imposed upon us the duty of antipathizing and preparing to meet these new dangers. For it is clear that it is not merely our interest but our duty to prepare, since we guarantee to protect the States against invasion, not merely to remain true after they have been invaded.

Navy men realize that any serious invading force coming against us must cross the seas. They know too that if such a force be once permitted to reach our shores some of our States will be invaded and the constitutional duty of the Federal Government will not have been performed. It follows, therefore, that the only way to do our full duty and prevent invasion is to meet and defeat the hostile force while upon the sea. Therefore we must have a navy, and we must have it ready at all times. We must, in the words of the Constitution, "provide and maintain a navy."

With these thoughts in mind a group of Annapolis graduates and ex-naval officers, none of whom were in active service, met in 1902 and decided to organize a body "to acquire and spread before the people information as to the condition of the naval forces of the United States, and to awaken interest and cooperation in all matters tending to improve their efficiency." This body was incorporated as the Navy League in 1903, which quickly became the first American preparedness association.

## F. D. ROOSEVELT POINTS NEED OF 100,000 MEN

By FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT,  
Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

WHILE the needs of the navy in point of view of mere numbers are far less than in the case of the army, we do, nevertheless, stand in great need of a reserve of at least 100,000 men. Some of these, of course, be obtained from former officers or enlisted men of the service and others from the mercantile marine, but the great majority must come from the ranks of civilians who are engaged in other than marine pursuits.

We are therefore starting the naval cruise for civilians this summer. It will be held beginning August 15 on a number of reserve battleships of the fleet which have reduced navy crews on board. This will enable us to take about 500 civilians on each ship, and the ships will start from various points along the coast, such as Boston, Newport, New York, Philadelphia, Norfolk and Charleston.

Practically any person in good physical health and between certain age limits can enroll. The cost will be \$20 or less for the four weeks cruise, and this will include food and navy working clothes.

The first five days will be given up to a shaking together process, and on August 24 of the six or eight ships will take part as a squadron unit in the big war game which is to be held on the coast by the Atlantic fleet. The third week will be spent cruising

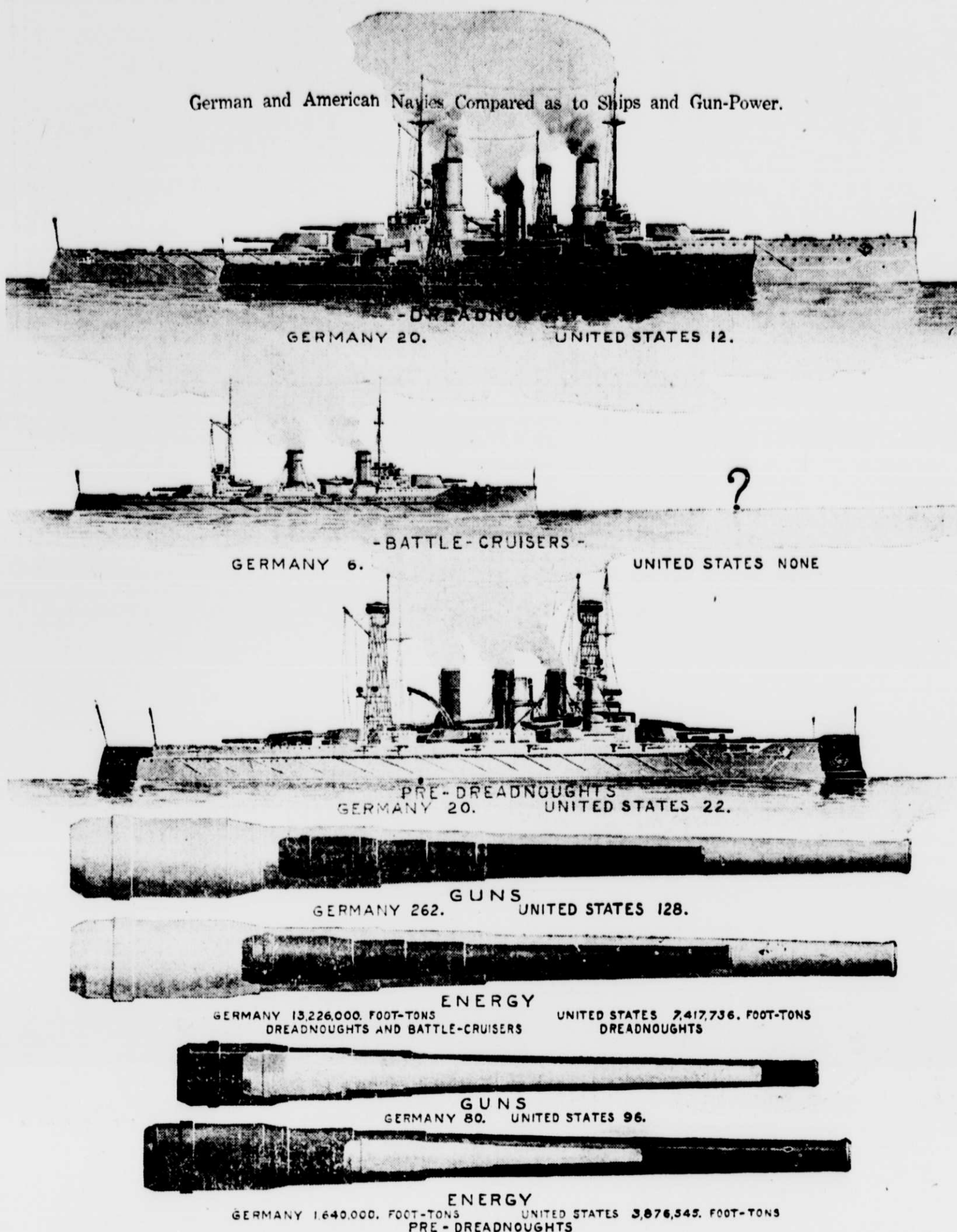
along the coast, and the fourth week each ship returns to the port from which she started and will take part in conjunction with motor boats, coast artillery, etc., in problems of local defense.

The routine on board will be similar to that at Plattsburg. The object, of course, is to give everybody a general idea of what the navy routine and the problem of naval defense means. Opportunity will be given to those who wish to specialize in the various details of naval work, such as navigation, pilotage, signaling, wireless, small boat exercises, radio work, electrical and steam engineering, etc.

The civilian committees are already at work in Portland, Boston, Newport, New York, Philadelphia and other places, and the various recruiting officers throughout the country have charge of the actual enrollments. We want to get as representative a body of men as possible, for the people of the country as a whole are very ignorant concerning military and naval matters, and I think that every man who takes the cruise will become an enthusiastic missionary in the cause of preparedness and gain new ideas of the needs of the naval service.

At the end of the cruise every man will be given a certificate showing the work which he has performed and that for which he would be best qualified in case of war. In addition to this in case legislation now pending before Congress is enacted into a law opportunity will be given to each man to join, if he so desires, irregular naval reserve.

Elaborate arrangements have been made for the drilling of civilian recruits on board the battleships of the



Naval strength of Germany and United States prior to the war. No accurate figures of the naval strength of the belligerents has since been obtainable.

Atlantic fleet. According to the original program 4,000 civilians were to have been taken on nine battleships. It has been thought advisable to reduce the number to 2,500. The New York quota has been lowered to 600, and to fill this applications are still being made. Several hundred business men have already enrolled.

Information concerning the terms of the enrollment may be obtained from the headquarters of the civilian committee at 34 Pine Street and also from the navy recruiting office. The most convenient navy recruiting office is that at 34 East Twenty-third Street, where applicants will undergo physical examination and attend to the necessary details.

The vessels assigned to this training squadron, which is to be under command of Rear Admiral John M. Helm, are the battleships Virginia, Kearsarge, Kentucky, Illinois, Maine, Rhode Island, Alabama, Louisiana and New Jersey.

The embarkation will take place on August 15. Vessels immediately after embarking the civilian volunteers will proceed to a rendezvous in the vicinity of Gardiner's Bay. There will be five days of training up drill, in which the civilians will have a good opportunity to get accustomed to the routine of the ship life. It is the idea of the Department to put the volunteers to no unnecessary hardship and to make their stay as useful as possible in giving to them a correct idea of navy routine. The regular crews on board the battleships will be considerably reduced to make room for the students of naval ways.

The training squadron will from the 20th to the 25th of August participate in the strategic maneuvers. As owing to the reduction of the regular crews the mobility of the squadron will also be less, its operations will be within their reduced capacity.

A type of motor boat which will receive special tests in the cruiser similar to the English 17 boat chaser. These boats have small guns with which they can disable or sink the average submarine. They can be maneuvered with great swiftness on the surface and have a great advantage over the slow moving and vulnerable under water craft.

The naval militia, which for years has gone on battleship cruises, is arranging one for the middle of next month. The New York division expects to be on the battleship Kentucky for two weeks.

After supper we had our first lecture, this on the objects of the camp. Taps at 10 P. M.

August 11 the schedule started in earnest. Up and into the lake or under the showers at 5:15, and so through a busy morning of drill. This afternoon each company was graded by height, formed in squads of eight and reassigned to tents by squad. I lost my two friends. My new tent-mates are Yale, '02; Harvard, '05 and '08; Tech, '03, and a citizen of Phoenix, Ariz.

August 12 in the afternoon the elective course started. Cavalry, artillery, topography, signaling and hygiene, cavalry proving most popular. I took artillery. We had two three inch field guns and dropped imaginary shells on all prominent points in the landscape, correcting the fuse, angle of sight and range to create the greatest havoc. Later using 30 bullets, we shot floating targets in the lake, firing direct, or sighting south and shooting north as a masked battery.

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Prominent New York yachtsmen and motor boat enthusiasts will share in this interesting programme.

From August 27 to September 3, approximately, the fleet will be on the way to Tangier Sound or at that point where target practice will be held. Such vessels as require coaling will take on fuel at Hampton Roads.

From September 5 to 12 the training squadron will be proceeding to the ports of embarkation or the invading vessels will be lying off those ports. They will take part in exercises with mobilized motor boats devoted to problems of defense of the various naval districts. The value of small craft of all kinds is indicated in the modern naval warfare, as by

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August 17 to 23: We learned some-

## "Floating Plattsburg" Plan to Be Made Nucleus of Big Reserve Force of Sea Fighters

By Commander  
ROBERT KYLE CRANK, U. S. N.

MANY to whom appeal has been made, directly or through advertisements, to enroll for the summer training cruise for civilians have asked themselves or the navy recruiting officers: "Why should I go? Shall I, after four weeks of training on board ship, be of any more potential usefulness to the Government, in the eventuality of war, than if I had not gone?" Others who have about decided to enroll for the cruise ask: "What sort of life shall I lead on board? What may I expect?"

To the first question, "Why should I go?" this answer may be given: "That you may gain, at first hand, such information concerning the many varied departments and phases of active naval service, and the character and scope of the training required to make a good man-of-war's man, as will enable you to understand and to make others understand the nature and the needs of the navy." The lack of this knowledge is responsible for the loose reasoning and looser talking about questions of national defense which are so widespread in certain parts of the United States.

To the question as to your increased potential usefulness, the answer is: "As a practical man-of-war's man, no, for you cannot be made into such in four weeks; as a citizen with a rudimentary grounding from which to develop into a really useful reservist, yes." The spirit must be one of service. "What can I put into it?" rather than "What do I get out of it?"

The vast scale on which modern war is waged demands participation in some degree on the part of every citizen. An intelligent understanding of the tasks of the navy would surely enable a man to do his bit more effectively, whether he ever went near

a ship again or not. In any event a man who takes this cruise will be able to decide as to the capacity in which he could best serve the navy and then try to develop himself for such particular service as his talents and inclination have indicated.

To the question, "What sort of life shall I lead on board ship?" the answer is: "Not the kind of life which, in all probability, you have conceived in your mind's eye." It should be remembered that a man-of-war is built primarily for fighting and that every consideration of design is governed by fighting efficiency; living arrangements and comfort are the best that can be had in conformity with the requirements of fighting efficiency. Palm gardens and Fitz-Crafton cafe rooms are not possible on board.

There is not room for valets and chamber maids. Only limited quantities of fresh food can be carried. Only limited quantities of fresh water for washing can be used. Much of the work on board is a bit dirty. The necessary equipment for fighting and maneuvering the ship takes up most of the space in the ship. Large numbers of men must be quartered in rather limited space.

All of this spells comparative discomfort until one becomes accustomed and accommodates oneself to it. Thousands of men live happily and in perfect health on board ship. A real man need not tremble at the prospect of four weeks aboard ship.

After a few days of hard work the food which seemed rather unpalatable at first will be found to be surprisingly good. The turning out at 5 in the morning, the scrubbing of decks and clothing, the night watches and many other "hardships" will be found to have been more awesome in prospect than they were in reality, and they will be remembered with pleasure for the associations and experiences of the cruise will furnish many a man with many a pleasant reminiscence.

The man who goes with the proper spirit, with the expectation of finding some discomfort and inconvenience but with the will to ignore non-essentials will have a unique and enlightening experience and will not regret the small sacrifice involved.

## SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF A 1915 "PLATTSBURGER"

By M. L. CORNELL,  
Columbia '05S.

From Columbia Alumni News.

AT a late day I registered for the first Plattsburg camp. I was persuaded by Bull Mackenzie's description of the Englishman's amusement at our general military ignorance. I also expected a profitable month's vacation.

At 6 A. M. August 10 we piled out of the two New York specials and first saw the camp through a steady drizzle. The tents were up, arranged in eight double rows on a slope from the west shore of Lake Champlain. We were a mile and a half south of Plattsburg, one mile from the post.

I joined the first long line to register and deposit thirty dollars. I found myself behind a man I knew and with a friend of his completed the rounds, at our request being assigned to the same company.

We passed under the doctor's eye with special attention to feet. At the quartermaster's tent we got our equipment of three blankets, one-half a shelter tent, poncho and sweater. We then got our ordnance of rifle, cartridge belt, knapsack, frying pan, bacon and condiment cans, knife, fork, spoon and canteen. We were assigned to a tent 14 feet by 14 feet in Company street and received coats, mattresses and a lantern. In the afternoon the Boston train came in some 400 strong, and three Harvard men, '04, '05 and '08, completed our tent.

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August 17 to 23: We learned some-

thing of skirmish line and open order drill. We had our first engagement. My squad, patrolling, met three enemy squads in the woods and was annihilated to the last man. We shot for practice on the range and for official record. Some men shot the wrong target and claimed a string of bulls.

Two men missed all the targets ten times and were sent home, to the company's great relief.

We made up our pack rolls; one blanket, poncho, one-half of a shelter tent, towel, underclothes and socks, and learned to get under the burden.

My impressions of the second week were: That shooting a rifle embraces a knowledge of some sixteen sciences. That a thirty-five pound pack is tolerable for more than a mile's march. That the camp holds a collection of rare good natured spirits.

August 23 to 26. Finished our record shooting, each man sure he could have done better. Drilled in outpost work and took innumerable positions by fierce squad rushes. The regiment was reviewed and gave a creditable semblance of straight lines and even step. I learned that two hours spent on cleaning a rifle would slightly reduce the officers' score at inspection. One of our company was complimented on his rifle. We look at him as a strange specimen.

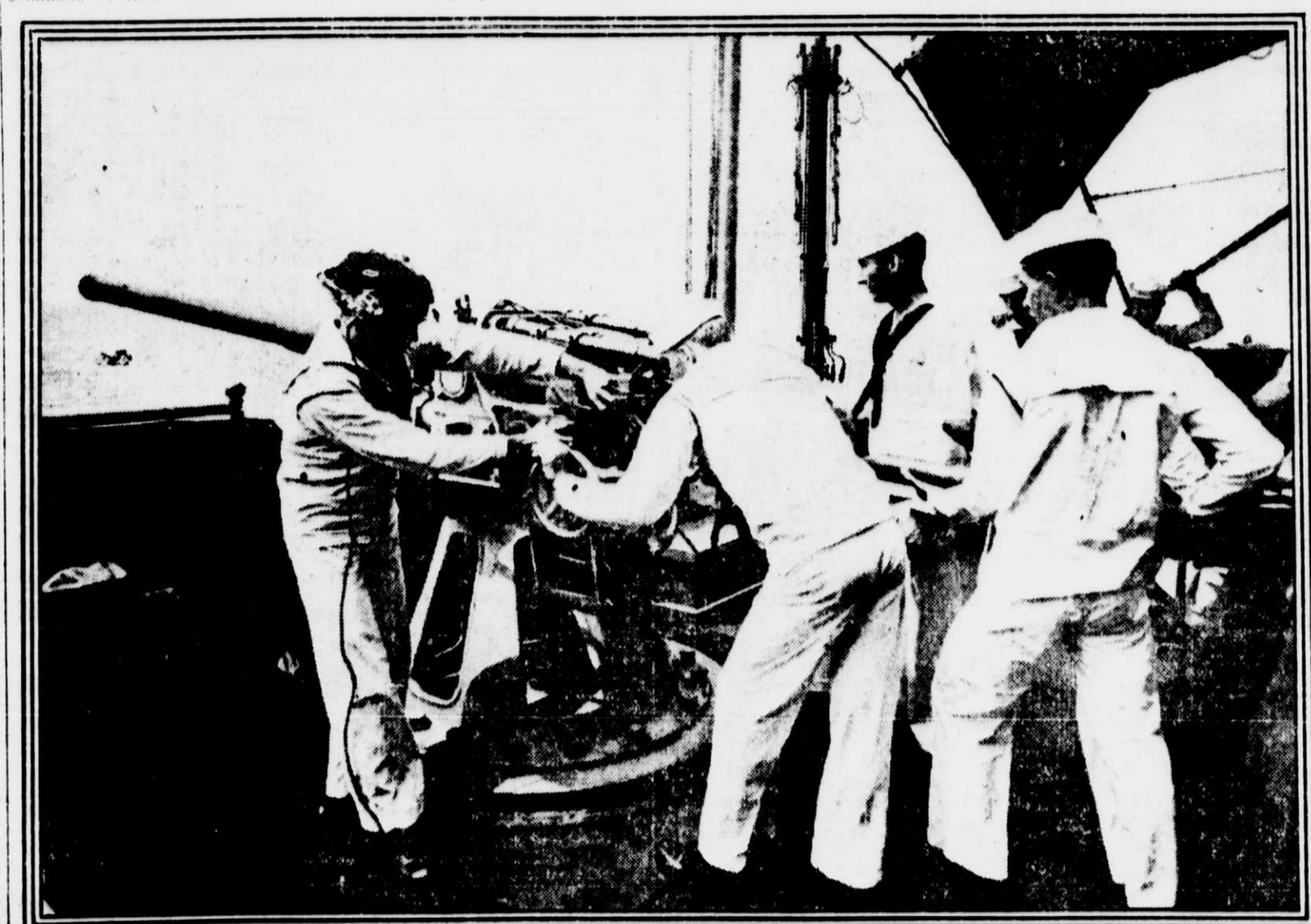
August 27: We started the hike, all rather nervous about how we would last. The man in front of me is lame, peaked and looks about 50. I decide I can start with him. We march an hour, rest ten minutes and on again. Reached camp site at noon. My pack had doubled in weight and I was hollow. "Come and get it, E. Company!" from the cook seems about the best cry you ever heard. We pitched tents, but the ground is too wet, and we are off again to a hilltop two miles away. We pitch tents, again, and the wagons come up. Each squad has a roll aboard, two extra blankets and a sweater per man, and in the squad bag an extra uniform each, a pair of shoes, socks, etc. The ground looks hard and I overheard a man by the campfire saying that a hundred dollars a night would keep him in one of those little tents. The next day we miss him.

August 28 to September 4: We march, hunt the Red Army, find them, deploy, charge and rout them or else wait for reinforcements while lunch hour goes by. The man then with clay cheeks left has a hundred friends. The sham battles are interesting, but we can seldom see the enemy. The umpires control the advance, estimating the opposing fire. My squad shot two Red cavalrymen Saturday, but with no umpire near they waved us a salute and withdrew. My corporal was captured Tuesday by Red cavalry when struck on a barbed wire fence. Later he was freed by the umpire and the cavalry declared out of action from our fire, which had been withering. A lecture every night on the day's work makes it fairly intelligible. We also get rumors at the lecture of the enemy's position and learn our mission for the next days.

The ground is getting softer and the packs lighter. There is considerable singing around the fires at night. Kidding is universal and never stops. Other favorite sports are ice cream cones, pop and writing picture postcards.

September 5: We broke our last camp at West Plattsburg and take the seven miles home, including a final review at the post, in record time and on our toes. A reflection on the first weary march of two miles four weeks ago.

Monday morning sees the camp deserted. I am sorry to go. I have learned something of a large science. I have made some very exciting friends. I am in better shape than at any time since leaving quarters ten years ago. I am going back next year.



Training in rapid fire gun drill that will be given to civilian recruits during the cruise aboard the battleships Maine and Kentucky.

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